

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the prior application:

Claim 1. (previously amended) A method of treating an organism for a condition which is mediated by COX-2 expression, the method comprising the step of administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically or prophylactically effective COX-2 inhibiting amount of an organic extract of an edible plant, wherein the extract selectively inhibits the activity of COX-2 relative to COX-1, and the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-2 activity is greater than or equal to about 2 times greater than the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-1 activity as determined in vitro by an IC_{50} ratio of COX-1/COX-2.

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Claim 2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-2 activity is greater than or equal to about 10 times greater than the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-1 activity.

Claim 3. (previously amended) A method of treating an organism for a condition which is mediated by COX-2 expression, the method comprising the step of administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically or prophylactically effective COX-2 inhibiting amount of an organic extract of an edible plant, wherein the plant is selected from the orders consisting of Agavales, Apocynales, Arales, Aristolochiales, Asterales, Brassicales, Cactales, Caryophyllales, Cucurbitales, Elaeagnales, Fagales, Gnetales, Graminales, Lamiales, Liliales, Malvales, Musales, Myrtales, Papaverales, Plantaginales, Polemoniales, Ranales, Rosales, Rubiales, Rutales, Scrophulariales, Umbellales, Urticales, and Violales.

Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-2 activity is greater than or equal to about 2 times greater than the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-1 activity.

Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-2 activity is greater than or equal to about 10 times greater than the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-1 activity.

Claims 6-34. (withdrawn)

Claim 35. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the organic extract of the Lamiales order is selected from the plant families Lamiaceae and Verbenaceae.

Claim 36. (withdrawn)

Claim 37. (original) The method of claim 35 wherein the organic extract of the Verbenaceae family is selected from the genus consisting of Vitex.

Claim 38-77. (withdrawn)

Claim 78. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the organic extract is a purified composition obtained by a method comprising:

- (a) contacting the plant with an organic solvent to remove an extract from the plant wherein the extract inhibits COX-2 activity; and
- (b) isolating the extract with COX-2 inhibitory activity.

Claim 79. (original) The method of claim 78 wherein the extract selectively inhibits COX-2 activity.

Claim 80. (original) The method of claim 78 wherein step (a) further comprises mixing the plant with the organic solvent and stirring the resulting mixture at a temperature between about 25° C and the boiling point of said solvent for at least one minute.

Claim 81. (original) The method of claim 78 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon solvents, ethers, chlorinated solvents, acetone, ethyl acetate, butanol, ethanol, methanol, isopropyl alcohol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 82. (original) The method of claim 81 wherein the organic solvent is non-polar.

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Claim 83. (original) The method of claim 82 wherein the non-polar organic solvent is dichloromethane or hexane.

Claim 84. (original) The method of claim 78 wherein step (b) further comprises separating the solvent from the organic extract by evaporating the solvent.

Claim 85. (previously amended) A method of treating or preventing COX-2 mediated inflammation or an inflammation-associated disorder in an organism with a condition which is mediated by COX-2 expression, the method comprising administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically or prophylactically effective COX-2 inhibiting amount of the purified composition according to claim 78.

Claim 86. (original) The method of claim 85 wherein the inflammation-associated disorder is arthritis.

Claim 87. (original) The method of claim 85 wherein the inflammation-associated disorder is pain.

Claim 88. (original) The method of claim 85 wherein the inflammation-associated disorder is fever.

89. (currently amended) The A method of treating or preventing a COX-2 mediated component claim 85 for use in the treatment or prevention of cancer in an organism, the method comprising administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the purified composition according to claim 78.

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Claim 90. (original) The method of claim 89 wherein the cancer is epithelial cell cancer.

Claim 91. (original) The method of claim 90 wherein the epithelial cell cancer is colon, breast, prostate, bladder, or lung cancer.

Claim 92. (currently amended) The A method of treating or preventing a COX-2 mediated component claim 85 for the use in the treatment or prevention of a central nervous system disorder, disorder in an organism, the method comprising administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the purified composition according to claim 78.

Claim 93. (original) The method of claim 92 wherein the central nervous system disorder is Alzheimer's Disease.